

Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

October 2002

Inspection and Evaluation Committee Members

JOHNNIE FRAZIER
Commerce, Chair
CHRISTINE BOESZ
NSF
CLARK KENT ERVIN
State
GLENN FINE
Justice
RICHARD GRIFFIN
VA
GORDON HEDDELL
Labor
GEORGE OPFER
FEMA
JANET REHNQUIST
HHS
STEPHEN SMITH
FCA

Next I&E Committee Meeting

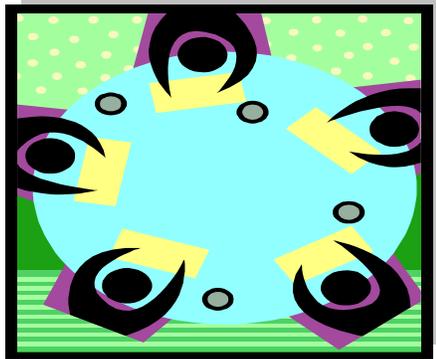
November 6, 2002, 9:30 a.m.
Hosted by the Department of
Veterans Affairs
801 I St., N.W., Room 1105
Tech World Building



Next I&E Roundtable Meeting

December 5, 2002, 9:30 a.m.
Hosted by the Small Business
Administration
409 3rd St., S.W.

AMTRAK OIG HOSTS I&E ROUNDTABLE MEETING



Amtrak Inspector General Fred Weiderhold, Jr., and his staff hosted the September 26 meeting. His introductory remarks included a fascinating history of American railroading from the 1820s to present day concluding with an overview of Amtrak operations and the OIG. The Amtrak OIG inspections and evaluation unit conducts snapshot studies completed in 2 to 3 months, compliance reviews, and efficiency and effectiveness studies. It also provides expert advice through technical analyses.

Mr. Weiderhold offered his perspective on future challenges facing the inspection and evaluation community including

- competing for resources,
- differentiating inspections and evaluation products from other OIG work,
- independence,
- refining the mission of inspections and evaluation,

- defining measures/success of OIG work,
- professional standards for evaluators,
- inspection and evaluation related training, and
- achieving statutory recognition for the inspections function.

The IG plans to add to his inspections and evaluation staff in the near future.

I&E COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

NEXT I&E COMMITTEE MEETING

Johnnie Frazier will hold an Inspection and Evaluation Committee meeting on November 6 from 9:30-11 a.m. It will be hosted by Dick Griffin, IG for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The meeting will be at the VA's Tech World Building, 801 I St., NW, Room 1105.

PCIE AWARDS

The PCIE Awards ceremony will be held on October 30, 10 a.m., at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hall of Flags, 1615 H Street, N.W. George Grob, former Chair of the Inspections and Evaluation Roundtable, will be given a Special Act Award for his leadership of the Roundtable and his outstanding contributions to the I&E community.

AEA CONFERENCE

The American Evaluation Association conference will be held locally this year at the Crystal City Hyatt, November 6-10, 2002. Johnnie Frazier, Nikki Tinsley, and George Grob will make presentations at the conference.

Debbie Holmes, Commerce, distributed conference registration information and a list of sessions that may be of interest to inspectors and evaluators. For a copy, please contact her at dholmes@oig.doc.gov.

IGNET UPDATE

Debbie Holmes has been working with the IGnet webmaster to update and enhance the I&E Committee web site (www.ignet.gov/pande/iande.html). The page now includes two new sections: "What's New," which contains the I&E Committee newsletters, and "Subgroups," which will include a list of Roundtable members.

LOOKING FOR HOSTS

The Roundtable would like to continue to rotate meetings, allowing its members to meet with the different IGs, and share support of the Roundtable. Please contact Debbie Holmes if your OIG would like to host the Roundtable's February meeting.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION TOPICS



GAO Independence Standards

Brent Weston, Education, raised the question of whether GAO's revised yellowbook standard on independence applies to inspection and evaluation work or just audits. Weston and other Roundtable members indicated that they thought the new standard was for audits only, but it could impact I&E work. They referred others to a

recently released question and answer document from GAO on the standard (found at www.gao.gov; see the statement from Comptroller General David Walker containing a link to the document).

Fred Weiderhold provided the following insight on this issue, "The personal impairment question has to be answered no matter what, but the whole organization cannot be tainted due to prior involvement."

Roundtable Chair Jill Gross, Commerce, advised members to attempt to stay abreast of this issue and that, if warranted, she would invite a GAO representative to speak on this topic at a future Roundtable meeting.

I&E COMMITTEE PROJECTS

CURRENT REPORTS

Purchase Card Guide

Brent Weston noted that *A Practical Guide for Reviewing Government Purchase Card Programs*, published last July, has been well received. Jill Gross announced that this report will be recognized by the PCIE at its annual awards ceremony on October 30. Both the Education and Commerce OIGs will receive awards for their work on this project. Many compliments have also been received from other IGs who found the guide to be a helpful how-to guide for their staff and management officials overseeing purchase card activities.

Travel Card Report

A draft, prepared by the Department of Labor OIG, is expected in October.

FUTURE PROJECTS

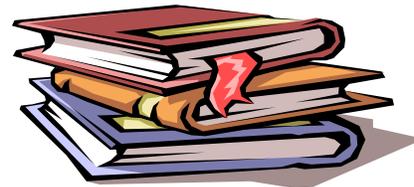
Survey of Inspection and Evaluation Units

Brian Rawdon from the Health and Human Services OIG's Office of Evaluation and Inspections will be working on updating the inspection and evaluation unit survey, last done in 1999. Once the survey questions have been finalized, the questionnaire will be sent by e-mail to each OIG to

be completed. Suggestions on the content of the survey should be sent to Debbie Holmes, Roundtable staff, at dholmes@oig.doc.gov.

Other Future Projects

Jill Gross asked members to suggest future I&E Committee projects, which would address crosscutting government-wide problems or be helpful to the I&E community. Previously suggested ideas include the handling of biohazardous materials, physical security and emergency preparedness, and interagency agreements. Emilie Baevel, Small Business Administration, also suggested a survey of small and minority business contracting—SBA's role and how other agencies interact with SBA. Johnnie Frazier will be discussing ideas for future Roundtable projects with the I&E Committee at its November meeting.



TRAINING

The IG Auditor Training Institute (IGATI), now in Rosslyn, VA, is offering several courses that may be of interest to inspectors and evaluators beginning in late October. Check the web site (www.igati.org) for further updates.

Chris Heppe, Commerce, plans to organize several courses for Commerce inspections and evaluation staff and will try to make space for staff from other I&E units. Chris will discuss Commerce's plans at a future Roundtable meeting.

For more information about any item in this newsletter, contact:

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or

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